

**Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Advisory Board
Meeting, March 19, 2013**

Board Members Present:

Edward M. Smith, Chair
Al Belmont
Debbie Henderson
Nancy Sheridan
William Gehlhaus
Len Turtora
Geoff Rogers

DCA Staff Present:

Michael Baier, Acting Chief, Bureau of Code Services
Michael Triplett, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit
Carrie Battista, Bureau of Code Services
Don VanHouten, Carnival and Amusement Ride Safety Unit

Members of the Public:

Anthony Casale, ROAR/The Fun Factory
Lary Zucker, ACA
Ed McGlynn, NJAA
Andreas M. Lichter

A. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am.

B. Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2012 A motion was made by William Gehlhaus seconded by Debbie Henderson to accept the minutes of the 9/26/12 meeting.

C. Old Business

1. Adoption of ASTM F2291 - Staff reported that the Committee had met and is making steady progress. The committee will meet again after the Board meeting.

2. RCMT Sub-committee – The department reported that due to Superstorm Sandy it was extending the expiration date of the RCMT to 3/31/14. Debbie Henderson reported on the presentations given in Pennsylvania and stated that she was concerned that the Department was contemplating issuing permits for generators. Staff replied that while there was internal discussion about permits for generators there was nothing decided yet and that there is no proposal that is ready to present to the Board. She also expressed concern that people would need to leave the state to fulfill the NAARSO and AIMS training requirements. She also asked about reciprocity between states for RCMT qualifications. She stated that NJ recognizes Pennsylvania

certifications but asked about other States. Staff responded that such reciprocity would be considered on a case by case basis.

3. Open Gondola Ferris Wheel – The Department presented a proposal that would restrict single riders on Ferris Wheels to those that are over 18 years old. A Board member stated that he thought that Ferris Wheel needs to be better defined in the rule. There was discussion about the low frequency from falls on Ferris Wheels citing approximately 6 falls over the past 30 years. It is believed that ASTM is modifying its ride standards and may define Ferris Wheels more precisely. A motion was made by William Gehlhaus seconded by Al Belmont to table the issue until the ASTM standard revisions are made adopted.

D. New Business

1. Fees for Rides – Debbie Henderson presented a handout suggesting that there was a disparity in the fees for smaller rides such as inflatables when compared to larger rides such as a major roller coaster. A board member pointed out that the fee is not just for the initial annual inspection but also covers the cost of performing the setup inspections during the year. The Board member felt that inflatables were not inspected enough and that the fee was justified. Staff reported that the fees for engineering review are justified due to the amount of time it takes to review inflatable projects due to problems with the manual. Staff agreed to review the material presented by Ms. Henderson.

E. Information:

1. The ride statistics were presented. A Board member asked if accidents could be broken down by ride type. Staff said it would have to be done by hand but that they would prepare a breakdown for the Board.

2. Staff reported that there were no comments received on the emergency stop/disconnect proposal.

3. The Department stated that the rule proposal on cross training of elevator inspectors and amusement ride inspectors had not been adopted yet.

4. The Department reported that no comments were received on the proposal on serial numbers, acceptance inspections and training certifications.

5. The Department reported that the proposal to have DCA perform the electrical inspections on portable amusement rides was adopted. Several Board members expressed concern about permitting smaller generators and felt that the inspection fee for the ride should cover the inspection of the generator. Staff responded that the proposal only dealt with the jurisdictional issue and that no decision on permitting of generators had been made yet.

E. Public Comment:

1. Lary Zucker asked the Department what the industry could expect in terms of ride applications. He felt that the next two weeks would be critical for people looking for approvals. He asked if the inspectors would be allowed to work overtime. The Department responded that they would. He also asked about the Federal Funding that the Department received for Sandy recovery and whether that money could be used for the amusement ride program. Director Smith reported that it could and that the Department was looking at hiring two additional engineers and one additional inspector to help with shore ride approvals. The Department also stated that if people knew when they were planning to re-open that would help the Department direct its resources efficiently.

F. Adjournment: A Motion was made by Bill Gehlhaus seconded by Geoff Rogers to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.